

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing a plant finished product, comprising the step of processing a plant or a processed material thereof with a high-temperature and high-pressure liquid, gas, or fluid having a temperature of 140 to 500°C and a pressure of 0.1 to 100 MPa, under conditions where an oxygen concentration is 0 to 1 µg/mL.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended): The method of manufacturing a plant finished product according to claim 1, wherein the plant or the processed material thereof is processed for 1 to 3,600 seconds ~~with liquid, gas, or fluid having a temperature of 140 to 500°C and a pressure of 0.1 to 100 MPa, under conditions where an oxygen concentration is 0 to 1 µg/mL.~~

Claim 3. (Currently Amended): The method of manufacturing a plant finished product according to claim 1, wherein the plant or the processed material thereof is processed for 10 to 1,200 seconds with liquid, a gas, or fluid having a temperature of 160 to 250°C and a pressure of 0.5 to 4.5 MPa, under conditions where an oxygen concentration is 0 to 1 µg/mL.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended): The method of manufacturing a plant finished product according to claim 1, wherein the ~~liquid, gas, or fluid~~ is derived from a deaerated liquid.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended): The method of manufacturing a plant finished product according to claim 1, wherein a gas having an oxygen concentration of 0 to 1 µg/mL is used to purge a processing container before processing.

Claim 6. (Original): The method of manufacturing a plant finished product according to claim 5, wherein the gas having an oxygen concentration of 0 to 1 µg/mL is an inert gas, carbon dioxide, or deoxidized gas.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented): The method of manufacturing a plant finished product according to claim 1, wherein the plant or the processed material thereof is a plant containing lignin or a processed material thereof.

Claim 8. (Original): The method of manufacturing a plant finished product according to claim 7, wherein the lignin-containing plant or the processed material thereof is at least one selected from grains, trees, teas, processed materials thereof, and a by-product of mashing.

Claims 9-20. (Canceled).

Claim 21. (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing a composition containing vanillin, comprising the step of processing a plant containing lignin or a processed material thereof with a high-temperature and high-pressure liquid, gas, or fluid having a temperature of 140 to 500°C and a pressure of 0.1 to 100 MPa to increase the amount of vanillin contained therein.

Claim 22. (Canceled).

Claim 23. (Previously Presented): The method of manufacturing a composition containing vanillin according to claim 21, wherein the high-temperature and high-pressure processing is carried out for 1 to 3,600 seconds.

Claim 24. (Previously Presented): The method of manufacturing a composition containing vanillin according to claim 21, wherein the composition containing vanillin is a raw material of food and drink.

Claim 25. (Previously Presented): The method of manufacturing a composition containing vanillin according to claim 21, wherein the composition containing vanillin is a raw material of liquors or tea drinks.

Claim 26. (Previously Presented): The method of manufacturing a composition containing vanillin according to claim 21, wherein the plant containing lignin or the processed material thereof is derived from grain.

Claim 27. (Original): The method of manufacturing a composition containing vanillin according to claim 26, wherein the grain is malt.

Claim 28. (Previously Presented): The method of manufacturing a composition containing vanillin according to claim 21, wherein the vanillin content of the composition containing vanillin is three times or more compared to that of the plant containing lignin or the processed material thereof before high-temperature and high-pressure processing.

Claim 29. (Previously Presented): The method of manufacturing a composition containing vanillin according to claim 21, comprising a step of exposing a product obtained through high-temperature and high-pressure processing to a low pressure from a high pressure to transpire moisture and puff out the product.

Claim 30. (Previously Presented): The method of manufacturing a composition containing vanillin according to claim 21, wherein an extruder is used.

Claim 31. (Previously Presented): The method of manufacturing a composition containing vanillin according to claim 29, wherein the composition containing vanillin is puffed out into a stick-like shape, a cylindrical column shape, a polygonal prism shape, a spherical shape, or a polyhedron shape.

Claim 32. (Previously Presented): The method of manufacturing a composition containing vanillin according to claim 21, wherein the plant, the processed material thereof, or the raw material containing the plant and/or the processed material thereof is processed under conditions where an oxygen concentration is 0 to 1 $\mu\text{g/mL}$.

Claims 33-38. (Canceled).

Claim 39. (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing a plant finished product, comprising the step of processing malt with a high-temperature and high-pressure water-vapor gas having a temperature of 140 to 500°C and a pressure of 0.1 to 100 MPa, under conditions where an oxygen concentration is 0 to 1 $\mu\text{g/mL}$.

Claim 40. (New): The method of manufacturing a plant finished product according to claim 1, wherein the plant or the processed material thereof is processed with the gas having a temperature of 160 to 250°C and a pressure of 0.25 to 4.5 MPa